

REMARKS

Claims 9 and 10 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 11-25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled original claim 11. These amendments add no new matter.

Specification

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner noted the use of several trademarks in the application and requested that applicants make every effort to avoid use of the trademarks in a manner that might adversely affect their validity as trademarks. Applicants have carefully reviewed the passages in the specification identified by the Examiner and confirm that the trademarks are properly capitalized, use the trademark symbol, and are accompanied by generic terminology where appropriate. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that no amendments to the specification are required.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph (Indefiniteness)

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 25 as allegedly indefinite. Claim 25 has been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering its rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. §102 (Anticipation)

On pages 3-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 12-25 as allegedly anticipated by Hunt et al. (1986) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 83: 6233-37, Osbahr (1980) Biomaterials 1:183-88, Goodlett et al. (2001) Mass. Spectrom. 15:1214-21, Goodlett et al., U.S. Published Application No. 20020115056, Vallee et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,897,464, and/or Brader, U.S. Patent No. 6,268,335.

Claims 1-8 and 12-25 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering their rejection moot.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled dependent claim 11, which was not rejected under this heading (the Office Action clarified on

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page 1 that claim 11 is objected to, but not rejected). It is applicants' understanding that this amendment overcomes the rejection of independent claim 9 and dependent claim 10.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants submit that all grounds for rejection have been overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Enclosed is a Petition for Three Month Extension of Time and a check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 08191-025001.

Respectfully submitted,

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